

Message Text

SECRET

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17

ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T JIDDA 6513

EXDIS

DEPT PLS PASS SECDEF AND CHUSMTM DHAHRAN AS SPECAT
EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MARR, SA

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM PRINCE SULTAN ON ARMS PURCHASES

REF: JIDDA 4419

1. ON SEPT 20 THE AMBASSADOR RECEIVED A LETTER DATED
SEPT 17 FROM MINDEF PRINCE SULTAN MAKING REFERENCE TO
THE SECRETARY'S SEPT 2 CONVERSATION WITH PRINCE FAHD ON
THE SUBJECT OF ARMS DELIVERIES. THE LETTER EXPRESSES
SATISFACTION AT THE U.S. DECISION TO SELL THOSE ITEMS
MENTIONED BY THE SECRETARY, REQUESTS A REPLY ON THOSE
ITEMS HE DID NOT MENTION, AND ASKS FOR SHORTENING OF
THE LEAD TIME FOR DELIVERY TO ONE YEAR IN ALL CASES.

2. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF PRINCE SULTANS LETTER:

BEGIN TEXT: QUOTE. GREETINGS, ETC. WITH REFERENCE TO
WHAT THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE SAID ON SEPTEMBER 2,
1975, TO HIS MAJESTY THE KING AND CROWN PRINCE AND FIRST
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PRINCE FAHD CONCERNING THE SUBJECT
OR URGENT ARMS REQUESTS FOR THE ARMED FORCES; I WOULD LIKE
TO CLARIFY MY VIEWS ON THE (FOLLOWING) POINTS.

1. TOW ROCKET LAUNCHERS

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A. WITH REGARD TO 50 LAUNCHERS WITH 500 ROCKETS, WE HAVE AGREED TO THE LATEST OFFER--WHICH IS ABOUT TO BE SIGNED--PROVIDED THAT THE LAUNCHERS BE MOUNTED ON JEEP VEHICLES.

B. WITH REGARD TO THE DECISION TO SELL THE KINGDOM 16 LAUNCHERS AND FROM 50-150 ROCKETS PER MONTH STARTING JANUARY 1976 UNTIL ITS REQUEST IS FULFILLED AT THE END OF 1976, THIS IS ACCEPTABLE. IT IS VITAL AND NECESSARY, HOWEVER, TO LINK THE RECEIPT OF THESE ROCKETS WITH THEIR APC MOUNTED LAUNCHERS AND THE 152 APC'S THEMSELVES.

2. SELF-PROPELLED M-155 MOWITZERS

A. WE HAVE ALREADY APPROVED HOWITZERS TO BE LENT TO US AND HAVE WRITTEN THE CHIEF OF THE (U.S.) MISSION A LETTER IN THIS REGARD. WE ARE EXPECTING THE ARRIVAL OF A LETTER OF OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE.

B. THE REQUEST FOR 43 SELF-PROPELLED 155 MM HOWITZERS WHICH WILL BE HANDED OVER BY THE END OF 1977; THIS LOA IS SIGNED AND THE AGREED SUM PAID. THIS REQUEST IS CLEAR, BUT CONTAINS A LONG DELIVERY SCHEDULE AND I HOPE THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO DECREASE THE LEAD-TIME.

C. THE 50 155MM SELF-PROPELLED HOWITZERS THAT WERE REQUESTED URGENTLY WERE NOT MENTIONED. THEY ARE NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE ARMING. I HOPE YOU WILL LOOK INTO THIS MATTER AND ARRANGE FOR A SPEEDY LETTER OF OFFER FOR THEM.

3. CONSTRUCTION BY THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS AT AL BATIN AND THE REVIEW OF THE PROJECT FOR EXPANDING THE NAVAL PROJECTS AND PROPOSALS RELATED TO THEM WAS TO BE OFFERED TO THE AMERICAN CONGRESS AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS MONTH AND HAS, I HOPE, ALREADY BEEN PRESENTED.

4. WITH REGARD TO THE SALE OF CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION FOR \$26.5 MILLION, THE PROPOSAL RELATED TO IT WILL BE PRESENTED TO CONGRESS IN THE BEGINNING OF THIS MONTH. THE ARRIVAL OF THIS AMOUNT OF AMMUNITION IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR NEEDS. WE HOPE THIS PROJECT WILL ENGAGE YOUR ATTENTION.

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5. WE ARE PLEASED THAT THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT ROCKETS (RED-EYE) ARE OFFERED FOR SALE. WE HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT THIS SALE IS CONNECTED TO THE LIST OF URGENT REQUESTS SO THAT THIS IS A STAGE IN SELLING US THE NEW ADVANCED ROCKET THAT WILL TAKE REDEYE'S PLACE.

6. AS FOR THE APC'S THAT WERE REQUESTED IN THE LIST, WE

ARE PLEASED BY THE DECISION TO SELL THEM: BUT IN THIS CONNECTION I WISH TO REMARK:

A. THE NUMBER OF 894 PRESENTED BY THE AMERICAN SIDE IS LESS THAN THE AMOUNT ASKED FOR IN THE LIST OF URGENT REQUESTS. WE REQUEST THAT YOU EXAMINE THE SUBJECT AS IT APPEARS IN OUR LIST OF REQUESTS OR SEND US INFORMATION CONCERNING THE KIND OF APC'S OMITTED AND THE REASON FOR IT.

B. THE LEAD-TIME FOR TRANSFERS OVER IS TWO YEARS--AN EXTREMELY LONG TIME. I HOPE THAT A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR CAN BE ESTABLISHED AS THE PERIOD FOR DELIVERY.

7. WE ARE PLEASED BY THE AGREEMENT TO SELL THE M60 TANK REQUESTED IN OUR URGENT LIST AND HAVE TWO COMMENTS:

A. THAT IT BE THE ADVANCED M60 A-1 TANK EQUIPED WITH LAZER.

B. WE FIND THE TWO YEAR DELIVERY TIME VERY LONG AND HOPE THAT IT CAN BE ONE YEAR INSTEAD.

8. CLUSTER BOMBS:

THE DECISION TO SELL 3,000 CBU#S IS GOOD IF WE AFFIRM THAT 2000 BE OF THE SSU 52 TYPE.

9. LIGHT ANTI-TANK GUNS (LAW) IS FINE EXCEPT THAT DELIVERY TIME WAS NOT CLARIFIED.

10. THE NEW ADVANCED FIGHTER PLANE (F-14, F-15, F-16): WE AFFIRM THE NECESSITY OF YOUR OFFERING A BRIEFING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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11. THERE WERE TWO WEAPONS REQUESTED IN THE LIST OF URGENT REQUESTS, THE ANTI-TANK ROCKET (DRAGON) AND THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN (VULCAN) WHICH WERE NOT MENTIONED. THESE ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO COMPLETE OUR ARMAMENT. THE ANTI-TANK ROCKET DRAGON IS CONNECTED TO THE TOW AND LAW ELEMENT IN COMPLETING OUR ARMAMENT. WE AFFIRM THEIR NECESSITY AND WISH TO HAVE AN OFFER FOR THEIR DELIVERY WITHIN A YEAR.

I HOPE YOU WILL STUDY WHAT WE HAVE PRESENTED WHILE NOTING THE NECESSITY OF LINKING TRAINING, TRAINING AIDS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE LOA'S OF WEAPONS APPEARING IN THE URGENT LIST OF REQUESTS. THIS IS IN ORDER TO COMPLETE ARMS PURCHASES WHILE LESSENING THE DIFFERENCE AMONG THEM IN SCHEDULES OF TRANSFER. FURTHERMORE, WE HOPE THAT WHERE

THE DELIVERY TIME IS TWO YEARS IT CAN BE REDUCED TO ONLY
ONE YEAR. IN ADDITION, WE ASK THAT ARMS WHOSE LEAD-TIMES
WERE NOT SPECIFIED ALSO HAVE LEAD-TIMES OF A YEAR.
THANKING YOUR EXCELLENCY FOR YOUR COOPERATION WITH US IN
WHAT CONCERNS THE BENEFIT OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND IN
EXPECTATION OF RESULTS OF YOUR CONTACTS CONCERNING WHAT
WE REFERRED TO, I AM SINCERELY YOURS, SULTAN BIN ABD
AL-AZIZ. UNQUOTE.
AKINS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECDEF AND CHUSMTM DHAHRAN.

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NNN

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